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AUTHOR Russell, C. N.
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ABSTRACT

The postsecondary plans and aspirations of twelfth grade students in Manitoba, Canada were surveyed in 1980. In addition to the general post-high school plans (college attendance, employment, and other options), specific information was obtained on their institutional and program choices if further schooling was to be pursued. The influence of friends and relatives, high school activities, and circumstances affecting the student's postsecondary decision was also assessed. Among the survey findings are the following: 38 percent of the respondents indicated that they were definitely going on to postsecondary education in the fall 1980; 20 percent indicated that they were going to postsecondary education if things work out; the University of Manitoba and Red River Community College were the most often stated first choice postsecondary institutions; parents were most often cited by all students as having the most influence on their plans; students who were undecided about their postsecondary decision and those who were definitely not going on to postsecondary education ranked social life as the most influential circumstance on their decision and ranked opportunity to live away from home as the second most influential decision; and students who were definitely going to college or going if things work out ranked knowledge of good employment opportunity as the major circumstance influencing their decision. Information on respondents by high school and statistical tables of the findings are included. (SW)

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RESEARCH

MANITOBA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

1980 SURVEY OF GRADE 12 STUDENTS

POST-SECONDARY PLANS AND ASPIRATIONS

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1980 SURVEY OF GRADE 12 STUDENTS

POST-SECONDARY PLANS AND ASPIRATIONS

Prepared By
Dr. C.N. Russell
Research Branch
September, 1980

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M.P. Yakimishyn
Director of Research

1980 Survey of Grade 12 Students

Background:

Research into the post-secondary plans and aspirations of Manitoba's high school students began in 1971 under the direction of the Post-Secondary Research Reference Committee (PSRRC). The studies continued until 1977 when the PSRRC was dissolved. In 1979, the Universities Grants Commission (UGC), a funding body of the PSRRC, requested that the Research Branch, Department of Education undertake a survey of the total grade 12 population with respect to their post-secondary plans and aspirations.

The basic objective of the survey was to obtain information on students' post-high school plans and aspirations. The questionnaire obtained information on students' general post-high school plans, i.e. go to university, go to community college, get a full-time permanent job, etc. as well as specific information on their institutional and programme choices. Questions concerning the influence of certain people, high school activities and circumstances on the student's post-secondary decision were also asked. To assess the impact of various events on the students' post-secondary decision, students were asked to respond to a series of events as to whether or not these events were of concern to the student and what affect the events would have on their post-secondary decision.

As indicated above, the survey's primary objective was to provide information on grade 12 students' post-secondary plans. As such the study was an "intentions survey" and provides information on students' intentions only; it should not be compared to the PDEM - TT project since many of the questions required for that model were not included in the questionnaire.

Methodology:

The questionnaire was designed by members of the Research Branch. Draft copies of the questionnaire were circulated to the Universities Grants Commission, the Research Branch, Department of Labour and Manpower, to the Universities Outcomes Assessment Committee and to university

representatives for their comments and suggestions. The final draft of the questionnaire was set up for optical scanning.

Letters were sent to all superintendents explaining the nature of the survey, what each school would be responsible for and when the survey would be undertaken. Similar letters were also sent to school principals.

All grade 12 students in public high schools in the province were to be surveyed. Based on the September,1979 enrollments supplied by the Finance Branch, Department of Education, a list of questionnaire sequence numbers for each school in the province was developed. A letter explaining the survey to the principal, a set of instructions for administering the questionnaire, post-secondary institutions and course lists and questionnaires were sent to each public high school in the province. A list of the schools surveyed, sample size and number of useable returns is shown in Table 1.

Limitations:

(1) The number of students to be surveyed, 14,247 was based on the September 30,1979 enrollment reports prepared by the Finance Branch, Department of Education. Due to student drop-out, moving, absences from school on the day of the survey, etc., the population to be surveyed in Manitoba, June,1980 was less than the September figure. An estimate of the enrollment during June,1980 would be approximately 12,800.

(2) Twelve schools did not participate in the survey. This was largely due to the timing of the survey.

(3) Students had difficulty answering two questions on the survey. One question, dealing with impacting events and their impact on the student's post-secondary decision, appeared to be too complex for students to answer. The other question dealt with whether students would have to move from home to attend post-secondary or to get a job.

(4) As previously mentioned, the survey provides information on

students' intentions about their attending post-secondary after high school. These intentions have not been processed by the PDEM-II model and therefore should not be viewed as enrolment forecasts.

Highlights:

The following highlights refer to the tables which appear in the attached Appendix.

(1) 38% of the students surveyed indicated that they were "definitely going on" to post-secondary in the Fall, 1980; 20% indicated they were "going to post-secondary if things work out" (this group would be the "going-impacted" group -Table 2).

(2) The University of Manitoba and Red River Community College were the most often stated first choice post-secondary institutions of attendance (Table 3).

Of those students who chose the University of Manitoba as their first choice institution, the majority came from the "definitely going" category; about one-third of those students choosing Red River Community College as their first choice institution came from each of the three decision categories; undecided, going impacted, definitely going.

(3) The most often chosen programs of those students choosing the University of Manitoba as their first choice institution were Administrative Studies (18%), Science (17%), Arts (13%) and Engineering (12%) (Table 4).

The most often chosen second choice program at the University of Manitoba were Arts (21%) and Science (17%) (Table 5).

Tables 6 to 9 show the first and second choice programs at the University of Winnipeg and Brandon University.

(4) Students were asked to indicate the probability from 0% to 100% of carrying out various plans after finishing high school (Table 10).

40% (2724) of the students responding indicated a 60% or better chance of going to a university in the Fall; the corresponding figure for the community colleges was 25% (1783) and for those responding to the "get a full-time job" plan, 47% (3517).

(5) Students were asked to indicate the influence of various people on their post-secondary decision. In terms of rank, parents were most often cited by all students as having the most influence on their plans; friends ranked second in influence for all students except those classified as " definitely going on". For those students, a " college or university student I know", ranked second (Table 11).

It is interesting to note that " college/university representative " was most often cited as having the least influence on the students' decision.

(6) In terms of high school activities, students who were going to post-secondary (going-impacted, definitely going on, and other) ranked " feel well prepared for continuing education " as the main influence. This was ranked second and fourth by students in the undecided and not going on decision categories (Table 12).

Students who were undecided about their post-secondary decision or who indicated they were definitely not going on indicated " feel prepared with skills for obtaining immediate employment " as the main influence.

(7) Students' who were " going on definitely " to post-secondary and those who were " going-impacted " (going on if things work out) ranked " knowledge of good employment opportunity " as the major influencing circumstance on their post-secondary decision. This was followed by " reputation of institution " (Table 13).

Students who were undecided about their post-secondary decision and those who were definitely not going on to post-secondary ranked "social life" as the most influencing circumstance on their decision. "Opportunity to live away from home" ranked second.

(8) Students were asked to indicate their concern with various events which could change their post-secondary decision (Table 14). The event which most students cited as having a "strong" or "very strong" concern was "many in my chosen occupation become unemployed". This was followed by "no summer job after high school graduation" and " housing cost away from home too high".

APPENDIX

TABLE 1

SAMPLE SIZE AND RETURN RATES FOR SCHOOLS
PARTICIPATING IN THE GRADE 12 SURVEY

School	No. in Sample	No. Returned	Percentage
Argyle High School	14	3	21
Churchill High School	162	112	69
Daniel McIntyre Collegiate	362	156	43
Elmwood High School	156	83	53
Gordon Bell High School	130	67	52
Grant Park High School	272	109	40
Kelvin High School	287	172	60
St. John's High School	252	147	58
Sisler High School	186	142	76
Tec-Voc High School	380	55	14
Winnipeg Adult Education Centre	187	-	-
John Taylor Collegiate	336	214	64
St. James Collegiate	242	118	49
Silver Heights Collegiate	215	124	58
Sturgeon Creek Regional Secondary School	437	289	66
Westwood Collegiate	336	209	62
Charleswood Collegiate	112	24	21
Oak Park High School	168	74	44
Tuxedo-Shaftsbury High School	106	51	48
Le College Secondaire De St. Boniface	158	18	11
J.H. Bruns Collegiate	84	76	90
Louis Riel Collegiate	76	38	50
Pierre Radisson Comp. Sec.	95	41	43
Windsor Park Collegiate	223	178	80
Fort Richmond Collegiate	224	163	73
Vincent Massey Collegiate	281	205	73
Dakota Collegiate	250	167	67
Glenlawn Collegiate	234	136	58
Nelson McIntyre Collegiate	123	72	59
Ecole Preciux-Sang	41	30	73
Kildonan East Regional Secondary School	487	221	45
Miles Macdonnell Collegiate	237	148	62
River East Collegiate	413	336	81
Garden City Collegiate	275	84	31
West Kildonan Collegiate	234	138	59
Lord Selkirk Regional Secondary School	436	-	-
Murdock MacKay Collegiate	210	62	30
Springfield Collegiate	132	111	84
Transcona Collegiate	203	142	70
Edward Schreyer School	72	29	40
Lac du Bonnet Senior School	36	20	56
Powerview School	29	19	66
Whitemouth School	35	29	83
La Broquerie Secondary	3	3	100
Ste. Anne School	24	27	66
Ecole Ste. Anne	17		

School	No. in Sample	No. Returned	Percentage
Lorette Collegiate	48	31	65
St. Norbert Collegiate	47	30	64
Green Valley School	27	26	96
Landmark Collegiate	9	8	89
Niverville Collegiate	39	34	87
Steinbach Regional Secondary School	219	129	59
Roseau Valley Collegiate	37	-	-
Shevchenko School	35	28	80
St. Pierre Collegiate	36	28	78
St. Jean Secondary School	42	34	81
W.C. Miller Collegiate	89	-	-
Morris School	45	30	67
Rosenort School	28	15	54
Sanford Collegiate	44	35	80
St. Laurent School	22	18	82
St. Paul's Collegiate	52	38	73
Stonewall Collegiate	100	90	90
Teulon Collegiate	90	48	53
Warren Collegiate	48	37	77
Arborg Collegiate	45	22	49
Gimli Composite High School	99	64	65
Riverton Collegiate	52	23	44
Ashern Central School	63	31	49
Eriksdale School	17	11	65
Fisher Branch Collegiate	28	25	89
Lundar School	21	-	-
Arthur Meighen High School	138	71	51
Portage Collegiate Institute	95	71	75
Miami Collegiate	14	12	86
Elm Creek Collegiate	22	18	82
Carman Collegiate	79	54	68
Garden Valley Collegiate	113	88	78
Nellie McClung Collegiate	45	30	67
Thomas Greenway Collegiate	22	20	91
Notre Dame Collegiate	31	33	100
St. Claude School	37	28	76
Somerset Collegiate	39	32	82
Baldur School	11	10	91
Glenboro School	34	24	71
Pilot Mound School	28	22	79
Treherne High School	23	17	74
William Morton Collegiate	48	43	90
MacGregor Collegiate	57	44	77
Carberry Collegiate	39	10	26
Neepawa Area Collegiate	110	49	45
Amaranth Collegiate	5	3	60
Kelwood School	8	7	88
McCreary School	27	16	59
Ste. Rose Collegiate	37	10	27
Dauphin Regional Comp. Secondary	238	-	-
Ethelbert School	35	-	-
Rorketon School	11	11	100

School	No. in Sample	No. Returned	Percentage
Winnipegosis Collegiate	36	23	64
Swan Valley Regional Secondary School	214	132	62
Gilbert Plains School	35	18	51
Grandview School	32	19	59
Goose Lake High School	55	46	84
Major Pratt School	67	54	81
Elphinstone Collegiate	10	6	60
Rossburn Collegiate	25	19	76
Birtle Collegiate	54	47	87
Shoal Lake School	22	16	73
Strathclair Community School	13	13	100
Hamiota Collegiate	36	32	89
Elton Collegiate	35	28	80
Erickson Collegiate	41	30	73
Minnedosa Collegiate	58	40	69
Rivers Collegiate	40	29	73
Crocus Plains Regional Secondary School	245	195	80
Neelin High School	157	89	57
Vincent Massey High School (Brandon)	147	74	50
Elkhorn School	11	9	82
Reston Collegiate	21	14	67
Virden Collegiate	94	-	-
Hartney School	29	23	79
Souris School	45	32	71
Wawanesa School	19	12	63
Deloraine Collegiate	39	11	28
Melita School	22	11	50
Pierson School	23	17	74
Waskada School	13	7	54
Boissevain School	50	32	64
Cartwright School	11	8	73
Killarney School	55	30	55
Margaret Barbour Collegiate	126	59	47
Hapnot Collegiate	153	88	58
Morden Collegiate	104	66	63
Berens River School	1	1	100
Frontier Collegiate Institute	21	5	24
Gillam School	7	6	86
Grand Rapids School	17	-	-
Norway House High School	15	-	-
Wabowden School	8	5	63
Wanipigow School	6	-	-
Duke of Malborough School	14	-	-
Snow Lake School	30	13	43
West Lynn Heights School	14	11	79
R.D. Parker Collegiate	172	28	16
Ross L. Gray School	13	13	100
Leaf Rapids Ed. Centre	9	8	89
Pine Falls Collegiate	10	10	100
Princess Elizabeth School	40	34	85
Pinawa Secondary School	33	28	85
TOTAL	14247	7759	

TABLE 2

SUMMARY OF PLANS FOR NEXT YEAR

Plans	Number	%
Undecided	1495	20%
Going Impacted	1499	20%
Going Definitely	2746	38%
Not Going On	1181	16%
Other	398	5%
	7319	100%

TABLE 3

FIRST CHOICE INSTITUTION BY DECISION CATEGORY

Institution	Decision Category			
	Undecided	Going Impacted	Definitely Going	Total
University of Manitoba	184 (12%)	423 (28%)	1123 (41%)	1730 (30%)
University of Winnipeg	52 (4%)	108 (7%)	324 (12%)	484 (8%)
Brandon University	35 (2%)	44 (3%)	134 (5%)	213 (4%)
St. Boniface College	18 (1%)	19 (1%)	53 (2%)	90 (2%)
Red River Community College	462 (31%)	486 (32%)	408 (15%)	1356 (24%)
Assiniboine Community College	66 (4%)	68 (5%)	70 (3%)	204 (4%)
Keewatin Community College	11 (1%)	9 (1%)	5 (-)	25 (-)
Other Manitoba	32 (2%)	75 (5%)	186 (7%)	293 (5%)
Outside Manitoba	48 (3%)	92 (6%)	189 (7%)	329 (6%)
Not Stated	587 (39%)	175 (12%)	254 (9%)	1016 (18%)
Total	1495 (26%)	1499 (26%)	2746 (48%)	5740 (100%)

TABLE 4

FIRST CHOICE PROGRAM AT UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA

N = 1251

Program	Number	Percent
Agriculture	123	7%
Architecture	72	4%
Arts	225	13%
Administrative Studies	305	18%
Education	98	6%
Engineering	212	12%
Home Economics	39	2%
Pharmacy	17	1%
Science	290	17%
Fine Arts	37	2%
Dental Hygiene	10	1%
Medical Rehabilitation	16	1%
Music	20	1%
Nursing	47	3%
Physical Education	77	5%
Social Work	26	2%
Dentistry	6	-
Law	42	2%
Medicine	39	2%

TABLE 5

SECOND CHOICE PROGRAM AT UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA

N = 772

Program	Number	Percent
Agriculture	61	5%
Architecture	51	4%
Arts	262	21%
Administrative Studies	89	7%
Education	88	7%
Engineering	88	7%
Home Economics	24	2%
Pharmacy	21	2%
Science	213	17%
Fine Arts	17	1%
Dental Hygiene	11	1%
Medical Rehabilitation	25	2%
Music	21	2%
Nursing	22	2%
Physical Education	67	5%
Social Work	53	4%
Dentistry	20	2%
Law	74	6%
Medicine	44	4%

TABLE 6

FIRST CHOICE PROGRAM AT UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG

N = 349

Program	Number	Percent
Arts	217	62%
Education	63	18%
Science	69	20%

TABLE 7

SECOND CHOICE PROGRAM AT UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG

N = 241

Program	Number	Percent
Arts	76	32%
Education	88	37%
Science	77	32%

TABLE 8

FIRST CHOICE PROGRAM AT BRANDON UNIVERSITY

N = 163

Program	Number	Percent
Agriculture	9	6%
Arts	42	26%
Education	30	18%
Science	42	26%
Music	17	10%
General Studies	23	14%

TABLE 9

SECOND CHOICE PROGRAM AT BRANDON UNIVERSITY

N = 114

Program	Number	Percent
Agriculture	6	5%
Arts	29	25%
Education	27	24%
Science	21	18%
Music	5	4%
General Studies	26	23%

TABLE 10

PLANS OF 1979 GRADE 12 STUDENTS

Plans	Probability of Carrying Out Plans		
	60%	80%	100%
Get married (N=7442)	343 (5%)	384 (5%)	353 (5%)
Continue in high school (N=7382)	109 (1%)	101 (1%)	488 (7%)
Get part-time job (N=7316)	888 (12%)	942 (13%)	1196 (16%)
Get full-time job (N=7380)	616 (8%)	1203 (16%)	1692 (23%)
Go to community college (N=7353)	502 (7%)	582 (8%)	699 (10%)
Go to university (N=7453)	293 (4%)	649 (9%)	1782 (24%)
Go to other post-secondary (N=7225)	234 (3%)	235 (3%)	387 (5%)
Get job training (N=6694)	538 (8%)	544 (8%)	421 (6%)
Travel extensively (N=6867)	695 (10%)	484 (7%)	323 (5%)
Do voluntary work (N=6744)	319 (5%)	183 (3%)	123 (2%)

TABLE 11

INFLUENCE OF PEOPLE ON STUDENT'S POST-SECONDARY DECISION

	Undecided N=1470		Going Impacted N=1481		Definitely Going On N=2709		Not Going On N=1167		Other N=393	
People	%	Rank	%	Rank	%	Rank	%	Rank	%	Rank
Friends	16	2	14	2	11	3	15	2	13	2
Parents	42	1	44	1	44	1	37	1	38	1
Other relatives	8	3	9	5	10	5	9	3	9	3
High school teacher	7	4	10	4	10	4	5	4	8	6
Counsellor	5	6	8	6	7	7	4	5	8	5
College/university student I know	7	4	13	3	13	2	4	6	8	4
College/university representative	3	7	7	7	8	6	1	7	3	7

Note: Only those responses indicating a "strong" or "very strong" influence were used.

TABLE 12

INFLUENCE OF HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ON STUDENT'S POST-SECONDARY DECISION

	Undecided		Going Impacted		Going On		Not Going On		Other	
High School Activities	%	Rank	%	Rank	%	Rank	%	Rank	%	Rank
Participation in activities having future usefulness	15	6	16	5	19	4	11	5	16	6
Feel prepared with skills for obtaining immediate employment	29	1	19	4	16	6	43	1	31	2
Feel well prepared for continuing education	20	2	42	1	67	1	14	4	33	1
Personal contact with higher education representative	6	7	13	7	17	5	4	8	9	7
Someone expressed personal interest in my plans	18	4	25	3	24	3	18	3	24	3
Counselling service	4	8	8	8	7	8	4	7	7	8
Someone assisted me in finding employment	19	3	14	6	8	7	24	2	16	5
Received information about continuing education opportunities	18	5	27	2	26	2	10	6	23	4

Note: Only those responses indicating "strong" or "very strong" influence were used.

TABLE 13

INFLUENCE OF CIRCUMSTANCES ON STUDENT'S POST-SECONDARY DECISIONS

Circumstances	Undecided		Going Impacted		Going On		Not Going On		Other	
	%	Rank	%	Rank	%	Rank	%	Rank	%	Rank
Present state of employment/ unemployment	26	5	24	6	21	4	22	5	20	5
Knowledge of good employment opportunity	31	4	37	1	36	1	32	3	35	1
Athletic or recreational program	15	7	13	7	11	7	11	7	13	7
Social life	36	1	29	3	19	5	36	1	27	4
New life style desired	31	3	28	4	22	3	32	4	32	2
Opportunity to live away from home	34	2	25	5	18	6	35	2	29	3
Reputation of the institution	18	6	29	2	34	2	16	6	24	6
Television/books	10	8	7	8	8	8	8	8	9	8

Note: Only those responses indicating a "strong" or "very strong" influence were used.

TABLE 14

CONCERNS OF GRADE 12 STUDENTS WITH VARIOUS IMPACT EVENTS

Impact Events	No Concern	Little Concern	Moderate Condern	Strong Concern	Very Strong Concern
General economic conditions get worse	611 (9%)	1069 (15%)	2941 (41%)	1729 (24%)	786 (11%)
Many in my chosen occupation become unemployed	959 (14%)	807 (12%)	1514 (22%)	1964 (28%)	1696 (24%)
Technical/vocational jobs get large wage increases	1580 (23%)	1494 (22%)	1998 (29%)	1121 (16%)	681 (10%)
No summer job after high school graduation	2253 (31%)	1036 (14%)	1291 (18%)	1277 (18%)	1322 (18%)
Housing cost away from home too high	1900 (27%)	1084 (15%)	1620 (23%)	1481 (21%)	1073 (15%)
No financial aid from family for school	2942 (42%)	1321 (19%)	1164 (16%)	860 (12%)	796 (11%)
Post-secondary course in not available	3121 (45%)	849 (12%)	958 (14%)	942 (14%)	1056 (15%)
Family advises to take different program	3303 (48%)	1294 (19%)	1122 (16%)	697 (10%)	411 (6%)
High school personnel advises to take different program	3860 (56%)	1250 (18%)	985 (14%)	489 (7%)	274 (4%)
Enjoy lifestyle this summer so change plans regarding school	2762 (42%)	1247 (19%)	1321 (20%)	796 (12%)	524 (8%)